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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY: BRAZIL

DATE OF INFO 31 MARCH 1964

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL CUNHA MELLO TO COMMAND FIRST ARMY

TASK FORCE TO BE USED AGAINST REBELS IN MINAS GERAIS

PALACE AND DATE ACQ:

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

EDCS-3/577,472

DISTR: 1 APRIL 1964

REF NONE

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APPRAISAL: 2.

EO 12958 1.5(c)<10Yrs  
EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

1. AS OF 2030 HOURS 31 MARCH '64 GEN. LUIS TAVARES DE CUNHA MELLO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF ASSUMING CHARGE OF THE FIRST ARMY TROOPS DESIGNATED AS A TASK FORCE AGAINST ARMY TROOPS LOCATED IN MINAS GERAIS. LT. COL. DONATO FERREIRA MACHADO, A MEMBER OF THE

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, HAD BEEN SELECTED BY GEN CUNHA MELLO AS HIS CHIEF OF STAFF.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE NEW ASSIGNMENT WITH GEN CUNHA MELLO, LT. COL. KARDEC LEME, A BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCB) MEMBER AND AN OFFICER ON ACTIVE DUTY AT THE MINISTRY OF WAR, SUGGESTED THAT COL. JOAQUIM INACIO BATISTA CARDOSO "PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE DP"

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS UNIT MAY BE THE PARACHUTE DIVISION WHICH MAKES UP PART OF THE FIRST ARMY.) BE ASSIGNED TO ASSIST CUNHA MELLO. KARDEC SAID, HOWEVER, "THE SITUATION AT THE DP IS CRITICAL AND HE (COL. CARDOSO) MAY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED."

3. GEN. CUNHA MELLO THEN ASKED LT. COL. KARDEC TO RECOMMEND A SERGEANT OF CONFIDENCE WHO "CAN ACCOMPANY ME WITH A MACHINE-GUN." KARDEC RECOMMENDED SERGEANT AMADEU, WITH WHOM KARDEC SAID HE WOULD SPEAK AT ONCE.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: GEN. CUNHA MELLO, COL. CARDOSO AND SERGEANT AMADEU ARE ALL CLOSE COLLABORATORS OF KARDEC.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO CINCLANT.

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